

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 OC-05 CCO-00 PC-01

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R 041456Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4730

INFO ACONSUL ASMARA 6347

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: DIRG-STUDENT CONFRONTATION (CONTINUED)

REF: ADDIS 6491

1. STUDENT UNREST REPORTED REFTEL CONTINUES IN ADDIS ABABA. EMBASSY HAS SEVERAL EYE-WITNESS REPORTS OF LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS BEING ARRESTED AND CARTED OFF IN ARMY TRUCKS MONDAY EVENING. ESTIMATES OF STUDENTS ARRESTED VARY FROM 200 TO 1,000 PLUS

2. DURNING TUESDAY MORNING, APPROXIMATELY 1,000 PARENTS MAINTAINED VIGIL OUTSIDE FIRST DIVISION COMPOUND REPORTEDLY HOPING FOR AUDIENCE WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTI OR WAITING FOR WORD ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN. APPROXIMATELY 100 PARENTS ALSO WAITED OUTSIDE MENELIK II SCHOOL, SCENE OF ONE OF MONDAY'S CONFRONTATIONS.

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3. EMBASSY HAS ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT A FEMALE SECONDARY

STUDENT WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY POLICE TUESDAY DURING DEMONSTRATION AT MEDHANE ALEM SCHOOL. GIVEN INCENDIARY POTENTIAL OF THIS INCIDENT, EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY.

4. ON WEDNESDAY MORNING PARENTS OF ARRESTED STUDENTS WERE TOLD VIA RADIO ETHIOPIA TO APPEAR AT SCHOOLS WHERE THEIR CHILDREN HAD BEEN ARRESTED. WE HEAR THAT AT SCHOOLS THEY WERE INFORMED BY DIRG REPRESENTATIVES THAT ARRESTED STUDENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE HELD BY DIRG UNTIL THEY SIGNED PLEDGE PROMISING TO RETURN TO CLASS AND REFRAIN FROM INSTIGATING STRIKES. PARENTS WERE THEN ASKED TO SIGN DOCUMENT RELINQUISHING "PUNISHMENT RIGHTS" OVER THEIR CHILDREN TO THE DIRG IN EVENT THEY FAILED TO ABIDE BY PLEDGES. AS OF 1500 HRS. LOCAL, MANY PARENTS CONTINUE TO WAIT OUTSIDE MENELIK II SCHOOL, APPARENTLY FOR FURTHER WORD ON WELFARE OF DETAINEES.

5. AFTER PARENT-DIRG MEETING AT MENELIK II, FSL TALKED WITH A MAJOR TILAHUN (A GUENET GRADUATE) OF THE POLITICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DIRG. MAJOR TILAHUN STATED THAT STUDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DETAINED BY DIRG BUT ARE NOT BEING BEATEN OR OTHERWISE MISTREATED. HE REPORTEDLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE DISPOSITION OF THE STUDENTS' CASES WILL BE; THAT WILL BE DECIDED BY ANOTHER SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DIRG UNDER LT. ENDALE BOGALE. EXPECTATIONS IN OTHER QUARTERS, HOWEVER, ARE THAT RECALCITRANT STUDENTS WILL REMAIN UNDER DETENTION AND PUT TO WORK. IN THE MEANTIME, MANY PARENTS OF STUDENTS HAVE KEPT THEIR CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL LEST THEY BECOME INVOLVED IN OTHER INCIDENTS.

6. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES IN DESSIE REQUESTED THAT DESSIE USIS READING ROOM BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS. REQUEST WAS COMPLIED WITH.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NEW CELU LEADERSHIP HAS TOLD DIRG IT SHOULD RELEASE ARRESTED STUDENTS, AND SCATTERED DEMONSTRATIONS ARE REPORTED FROM PROVINCES WITH ZEMATCHOCH MAKING SAME DEMANDS.

8. COMMENT: PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT CONFRONTATION, WHICH WAS INITIATED BY MENELIK II STUDENTS, MAY HAVE BEEN TOUCHED OFF BY RUMORS OF IMPENDING URBAN NATIONALIZATIONS. ACCORDING TO THIS THEORY, STUDENTS, STILL HEADY FROM THEIR SUCCESS IN TOPPLING OLD ORDER, DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THEIR PARENTS' HOMES
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FROM BEING NATIONALIZED. TOUGH DIRG REACTION TO DEMONSTRATIONS MAY DETER FUTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ALTHOUGH TRACK RECORD INDICATES THAT, WHILE SOME STUDENTS REMAIN UNDER DETENTION, PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS TEND TO SNOWBALL. INDEED WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED REPORTS THAT ADDITIONAL STUDENT STRIKES ARE PLANNED.
WYMAN

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